

Message Text

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ORIGIN AID-50

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 DODE-00 FDRE-00 EB-11

IGA-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-15 NSC-10

PRS-01 /152 R

DRAFTED BY AFR/CWR/SDE:HFARNHAM:MW

8/23/73:EXT. 20209

APPROVED BY AA/AFR:DSBROWN

PHA/FDRC:RCLARY (DRAFT)

AF/W:RSHERWOOD (DRAFT)

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E.O. 11652: N/A

OUAGADOUGOU FOR SPENCER PASS MENSAH, ROME FOR FODAG,
LONDON FOR BAAS, PARIS FOR ZACHARY, USEC FOR WENDT

SUBJECT: GIRM REQUEST FOR USG AIRLIFT

REF: (A) NOUAKCHOTT 738 (B) NOUAKCHOTT 747

1. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE PROVIDED CONCERNING EXPECTED GIRM REQUEST FOR USG EMERGENCY AIRLIFT. ASSUME EMBASSY CONCURS GIRM REQUEST WILL MEET PREVIOUSLY CABLED AIRLIFT CRITERIA, I.E., NO OTHER WAY DELIVER GRAIN AND NO PROSPECT CONVENTIONAL GRAIN SHIPMENTS ARRIVING IN TIME PREVENT SEVERE HARDSHIP.

2. USG PREFERS GIRM ATTEMPT ARRANGE EMERGENCY AIRLIFT THROUGH FAO REPRESENTATIVE IN OUAGADOUGOU, MOISE MENSAH. BELIEVE FAO ALREADY COORDINATING OPERATIONS NUMEROUS PLANES IN REGION (FROM VARIOUS DONORS) AND POSSIBILITY EXISTS FAO COULD ARRANGE IMMEDIATE DIVERSION OF A PLANE MEET GIRM NEED.

3. IF FAO UNABLE ARRANGE DIVERSION PLANE CURRENTLY OPERATING UNDER THEIR AEGIS, USG WILLING ALLOT DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS TO AMBASSADOR MEET FUEL COSTS ASSOCIATED SPANISH PLANES MENTIONED REFTEL AS LONG AS PREVIOUS GIRM OFFER TO GOS STANDS, AND GOS PROVIDES PLANES AS DISCUSSED. USG SEES AVAILABILITY FOUR PLANES IN LIEU ONE, PROVIDING MUCH GREATER CAPACITY AND FLEXIBILITY MOVE GRAIN AT GOOD COST EFFECTIVENESS. DURATION USG PAYMENT FUEL COSTS WOULD BE DECIDED AT APPROPRIATE TIME. WOULD APPRECIATE USEMBASSY MADRID INQUIRING STATUS GOS ACTION GIRM REQUEST FOR GOS PAYING FUEL COSTS OBVIOUSLY PREFERABLE.

4. AID/W ANALYSIS DATT COMMENT ON NEMA IN REFTEL, PLUS OTHER INFORMATION CONTAINED NOUAKCHOTT'S 602, INDICATE LIGHTER PLANE (SUCH AS TRANSALL) WOULD BE PREFERABLE ON NEMA RUN. DOES FRG AMBASSADOR HAVE ANY INDICATION WILLINGNESS FRG PROVIDE PLANE SATISFY GIRM REQUEST? LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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5. BELIEVE ONE OF ABOVE APPROACHES WILL BE BETTER, MORE SUCCESSFUL, QUICKER THAN FOR USG ARRANGE OWN PLANE. IF ABOVE APPROACHES DO NOT BEAR FRUIT, HOWEVER, USG STANDS READY ARRANGE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE MEET NEED. REQUEST INFORMATION CONCERNING FUEL AVAILABILITY FOR AIRCRAFT USING NEMA, TYPE NIGHT LANDING FACILITIES, OTHER PERTINENT DATA.

6. STATE/AID AWARE POSSIBLE SENSITIVITIES DISCUSSING
GIRM-THIRD COUNTRY CONTACTS REVEALED PER REFTTEL (I.E.,
SPAIN-US DISCUSSIONS) WITH GIRM. DEPARTMENT CONFIDENT
CHARGE CAN PRESENT OUR SUGGESTIONS IN SUCH LIGHT AS TO
ELIMINATE ANY POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES. CHARGE MAY ALSO WISH
POINT OUT, SHOULD QUESTION ARISE, THAT FAO ASSUMPTION ROLE
AS COORDINATOR AIRLIFT IN REGION, GREATER KNOWLEDGE
LOCATION PRESENT AIRCRAFT, AND THEIR POTENTIAL MOST RAPID
RESPONSE, ALL REASONS WHY USG RECOMMENDING GIRM WORK
THROUGH FAO MEET PRESENT NEED.

DECONTROL 12/31/73. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, DROUGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE168617
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HFARNHAM:MW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730816/aaaaalvm.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) NOUAKCHOTT 738 (B) NOUAKCHOTT 74, 7
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Sep-2001 by hilburpw>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GIRM REQUEST FOR USG AIRLIFT
TAGS: EAID, SWEL, US, XY
To: NOUAKCHOTT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005